

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

November 4, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership), a broad coalition of national law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about gun violence, thanks you for your excellent remarks at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference last week in Chicago. The day before you spoke, the Partnership convened a press conference at the same event, stressing that curbing gun violence must be a top priority for this nation and emphasizing the need for background checks on all gun purchasers.

As you know, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has lacked a permanent Director since March 31, 2015. Given the critical role ATF plays — through investigation and enforcement — in mitigating the harm caused by armed criminals and illegal firearms, it is vital that ATF be publicly recognized as the critically important law enforcement entity it is, and supported through proper resourcing. That includes, ensuring that ATF has the necessary operating funds and that it has a permanent leader. Just as the White House could not function effectively without a President, no local, state or federal law enforcement agency can do so without leadership. ATF's hard working agents and staff are adversely impacted and the agency is forced to operate at a deficit when the position of ATF Director is left vacant and without a nominee — regardless of the talent, professionalism or commitment of those who serve in the organization.

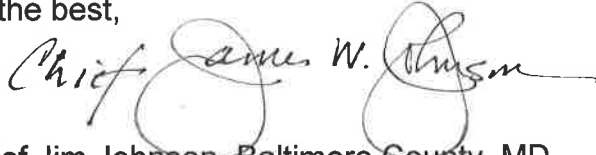
We implore you to nominate a permanent Director of ATF, and ask that you do so without delay. The law enforcement community has the utmost respect for and confidence in ATF's Deputy Director, Thomas Brandon, a career ATF special agent who has served with distinction and honor as the agency's Acting Director since March of 2015 and as the ATF Deputy Director since October 2011. We believe that there is no better person at this time to lead ATF in a permanent capacity, and we urge you to nominate him for this critical



position. It is time to send an unmistakable message that ATF and its mission to reduce gun violence is essential.

Thank you for your continued leadership on these important issues. We look forward to working with you and your staff in the days and months ahead to ensure the safety of all Americans.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chief James W. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the word "Chief" written in a smaller, more upright script than the name.

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)

International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)

Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)

National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)

Police Foundation (PF)